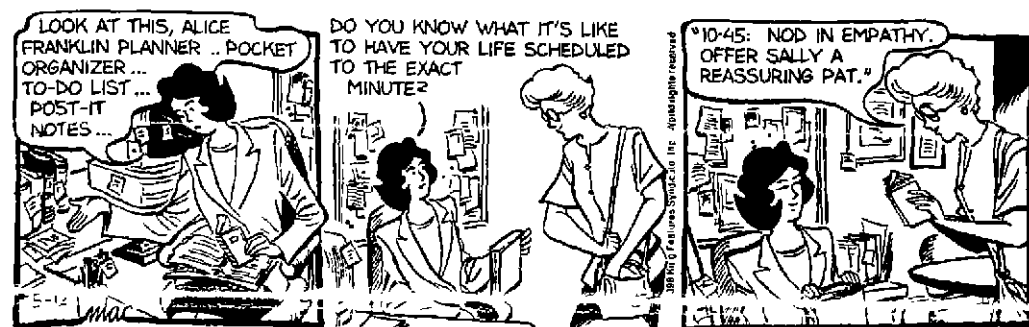


BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



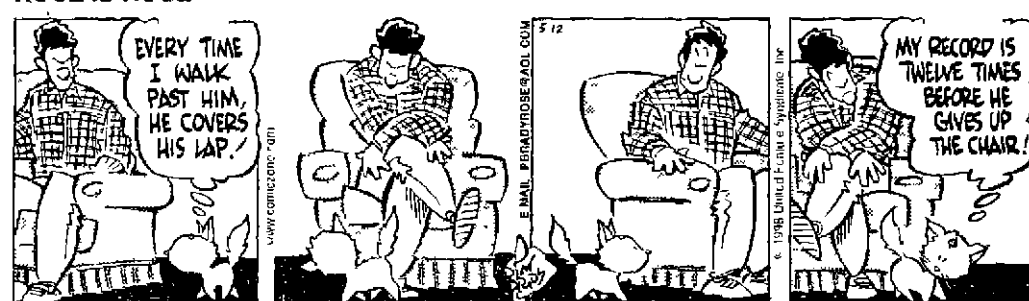
9 CHICKWEED LANE



ANDY CAPP



ROSE IS ROSE



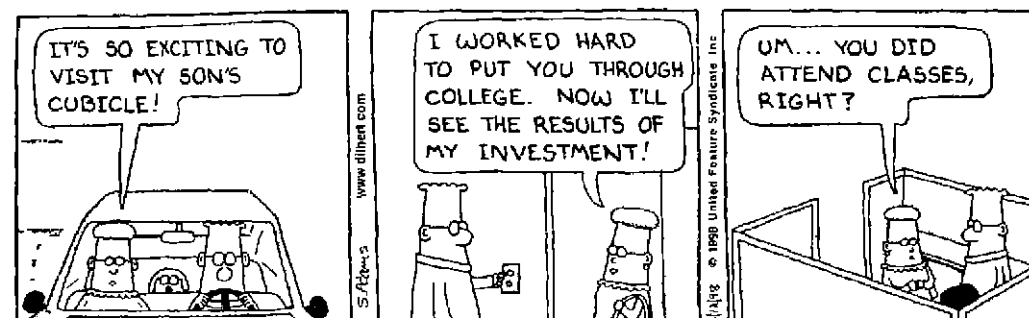
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



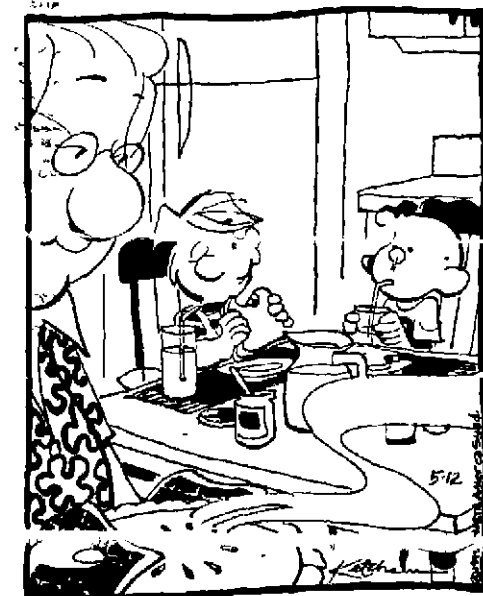
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



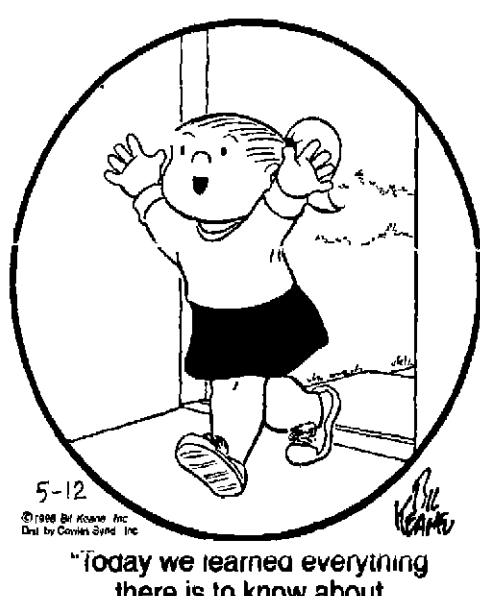
DILBERT



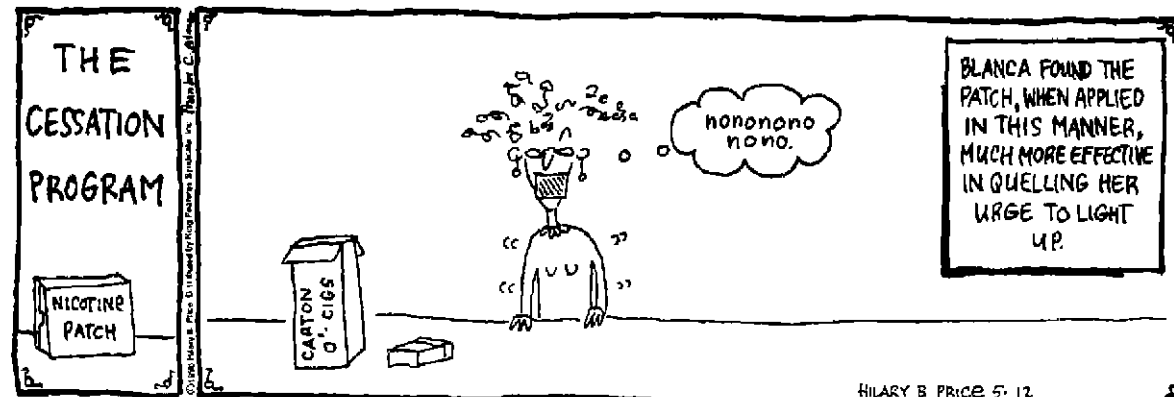
DENNIS THE MENACE



FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



RALPH



Today's Birthdays

Actress Katharine Hepburn is 91
Journalist Howard K. Smith is 84.
Baseball Hall-of-Famer Yogi Berra is 70.
Burt Bacharach is 68.
Comedian George Carlin is 61.
Singer Billy Squier is 48.
Country singer Kix Brooks is 43.
Actor Emilio Estevez is 36.
Country musician Eddie Kilgallon (Ricochet) is 33.
Actor Stephen Baldwin is 32.
Singer Melanie "Sporty Spice" Chisholm is 22.

I NEED HELP



SCRABBLE

For Wednesday, May 13, 1998

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) The accent is on romance and partners doing things together. You're right not to mix business and pleasure after dark.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Attend to insurance needs. Consult with bankers about financial matters.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) If you need an agent, representative or adviser, this is the day to arrange it. Travel is highlighted.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Friends could be somewhat unpredictable. You're right on course, though, when it comes to business interests.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Travel plans are in limbo, but your social life sparkles. Meet with friends or go to club functions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) You're better off concentrating on home tasks that have been piling up of late.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You could be dissatisfied with household changes. An adventurous mood spells romance and good times.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You have extra drive to increase earning power. Some shopping will be on your agenda.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Take advantage of seasonal opportunities. Enjoy boating, picnics, gardening, the park or barbecues.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Keep a financial request under consideration, but focus on important domestic moves. Put your plans into motion.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) You still need more information about a business deal. Accent the lighter side of life.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) The completion of a work project inspires you to forge ahead. Strike while the iron is hot.

HOROSCOPE

WORD SLEUTH

Used for hauling

ALIFCZWTQNKIF
CZWUROP MJHCECZ
EXUSQNNLJGEUCZX
VNTRPVNLJHELRCA
YWAVTERPNSLEKTI
GECBYNZIKLXWRU
SNEPPOROTIPOMAL
JISGRVYADGEDCB
AHYARAIRLXWUTSQ
SPWOROTAVELENLK
JHGTHYARDFDCB

Monday's unlisted clue: TOTEM

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Tuesday's unlisted clue hint: LARGE SEAGOING VESSEL.

Plane Elevator Skid Travois
Cart Hoist Sled Truck
Conveyor Horse Trailer Wagon
Dray Mule Train

© 1998 King Features, Inc.

For solution, see Classified.

ACES ON BRIDGE

By Bobby Wolff

A reader writes: "My partner and I need a last word in a team event, we played in an ignominious no-trump game for one down when we were led for four spades. Can you adjudicate, please?"

There wasn't much to the play. West led the diamond deuce to East's ace, and East returned the eight, hoping to find the jack with West. South falsecarded with his queen and passed his spade eight to East's king. East cashed his diamond king, and when West didn't unblock the jack (he didn't have it), East quietly cashed his remaining two aces for one down. North argued that South should have raised spades since he had three trumps. South argued that his lack of quick winners made the no-trump game a better choice. The verdict?

North's jump to three spades was on target. In the pass-out seat, he was inviting game in spades if partner could offer some help. South's decision to try three no-trump was a reasonable choice. He had slow tricks in diamonds and stoppers in hearts and clubs. South might have raised spades instead of bidding no-trump, however, North had the final word. With a diamond void and South's promise of help in the unbid suits, a retreat to four spades would have been a more prudent choice. The blame? South 20 percent, North 80 percent. One more important point. Note East's shrewd pass to three no-trump. Even though he had five almost certain winners, if he had doubled, surely North would have reconsidered and retreated to his cold game in spades.

NORTH
♠ A Q J 10 9 6 5
♥ Q 10 8 5
♦ Q J
♣ —

WEST
♠ 3
♥ J 9 7 6 2
♦ 9 5 3 2
♣ 9 7 2

EAST
♠ K 4
♥ A 4
♦ A K 10 8 7
♣ A 5 4 3

SOUTH
♠ 8 7 2
♥ K 3
♦ Q J 6 4
♣ —

Vulnerable: Neither

Dealer: East

The bidding:

East: 1♦ South: Pass West: 3NT North: 3♠

Pass 3NT All pass

Opening lead: Diamond deuce

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 0331

ACROSS

1 Check
5 Fill to excess
9 Country bumpkin
13 Pretentious
14 Deposed leader's fate, maybe
16 Chester Arthur's middle name
17 ♦
20 Airport info, informally
21 On the safe side, at sea
22 Math groups
23 Here, to Henri
24 Calcutta clothing
25 □
33 Klingon or Vulcan

DOWN

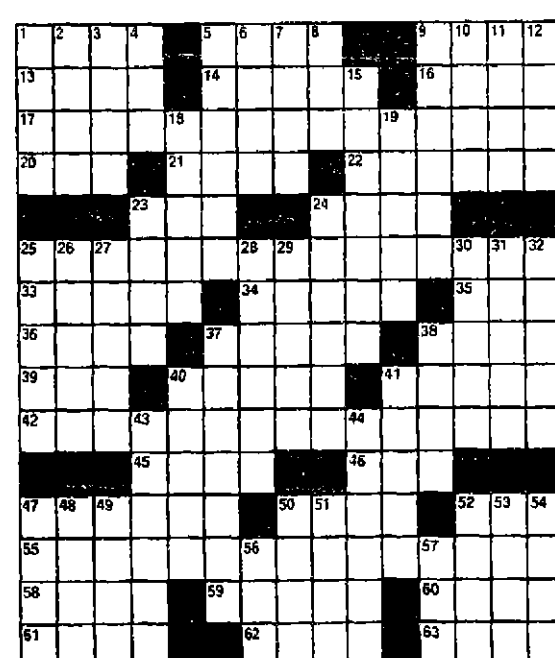
24 Women's group?
35 Coach Parseghian
36 Buster Brown's dog
37 Central points
38 First governor of Alaska
39 Loser to R M N in '68
40 Numbers game
41 Sharp
42 ○
45 One who's on your side
46 London lav
47 Bother
50 In a frenzy
52 Take a part
55 △
58 Lago contents
59 Seasonal visitor
60 Efficient

DOWN

1 "Streamers" playwright David
2 Part of Q E D
3 Frank Capra's "Wonderful Life"
4 Bill —, the Science Guy
5 Protect, as freshness
6 Bridge toll unit
7 Floor unit
8 Actor Wallace
9 Kind of bread
10 1997 Peter Fonda title role
11 Latvian, e.g.
12 Volumes A and Z in an encyclopedia
15 Boxes
16 Part of a hearty breakfast
19 Discussion medium
23 "Mm-hmm!"
24 Somewhat
25 Prefix with logical
26 Peace Nobelist
27 Root

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

TABOO TART POSH
SPEAR IDEA RULE
POLKA TALL EGOS
CRAZY EIGHTS
SCALENE SOOTHE
FLARES HEW
AUDI EMMA ALIST
DRESS TO THE NINES
ESTEE BAAS BANK
IDS STENOS
AIRICIAN STEALER
PERFECT CITENS
ALAR OREL SABER
CATO DIAL EBONY
EXES EMMY LEASE



Puzzle by Alan Arbesfeld

30 International court site, with "The"
31 Plenty sore
32 Jury
33 Atheistic
34 Return to the Alps?
35 French textile city
36 Came to
37 Square dance move
38 Baseball's Roberto

47 Frost
48 Jason's ship
49 Refuse
50 "Rule, Britannia" composer
51 "G'day" recipient
52 Palindromic pop group
53 It makes a bit of a stir
54 Hard journey
56 — Mahal
57 Stomach

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone: 1-800-426-2000 (10¢ per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS.